

very interesting birds regularly make their homes. Omitting the commoner ones, I might mention the Great Crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Black and White Creeper, Canadian Warbler, Ruby-throat Hummingbird, Black-billed Cuckoo, Catbird, Screech Owl, Cedar Waxwing, Maryland Yellow throat. In addition to these, many marsh and shore birds, such as Grebes, Gallinules, Bitterns, Coots, Plovers, Sandpipers, and even Ducks and Loons, regularly nest and in spite of legal and illegal shooting seem to maintain their numbers fairly well. In addition to these there are, of course, many migrants, including Warblers, Thrushes, &c, which visit the shade trees and orchards during the spring and fall migrations. Indeed the number and beauty of these migrants is generally a revelation to those whose attention is directed to them for the first time. For the purpose of studying nesting and food habits, however, the ever-present English Sparrow will afford a convenient example and may be compared and contrasted with the Robin. Every child knows a good deal about these birds in a more or less vague and indefinite way, and methods will readily suggest themselves to the teacher to make this vague knowledge definite and to cultivate a habit of accurate observation.

One of the important practical results which will follow the introduction of the study of birds into the schools, will be a more general recognition of their great economic value. To those who know and love birds and all nature, this is, it is true, by no means the greatest consideration; nevertheless, it is undeniably one which appeals strongly to the popular mind.

One of the first questions which an appeal for the more general protection of birds will provoke, is almost certain to be: "Well: what good are they anyway?" If we can suppress an expression of pity for the benighted condition of the questioner, we can produce an array of facts generally sufficient to convince the most sceptical, that the vast majority of birds are well deserving of our great efforts to encourage and protect them. A familiar example is the Meadow Lark. As far as known, the food of this bird consists entirely of insects, including many such as wireworms, cutworms and grasshoppers, which are distinctly injurious to growing crops.